

THE

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Playground

JUNE

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1908

PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



OPENING DAY, PLAYGROUND No. 2, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

624 MADISON AVENUE

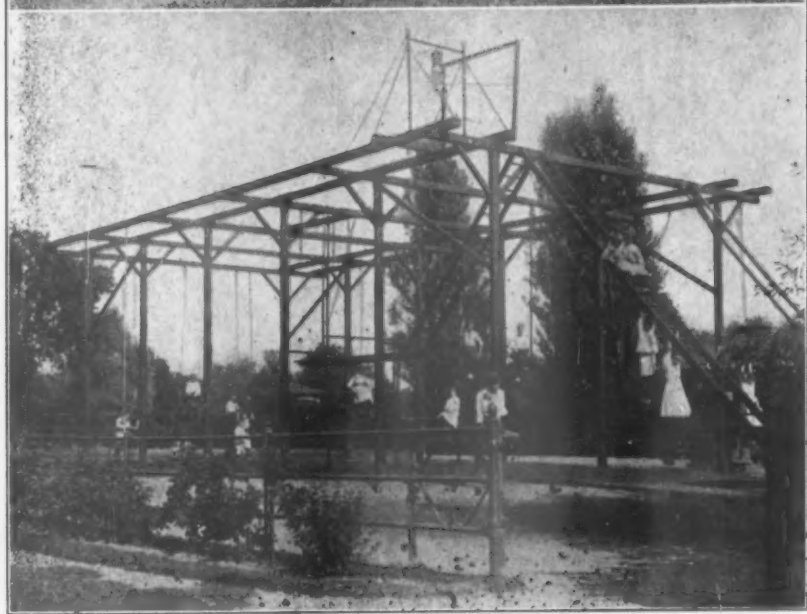
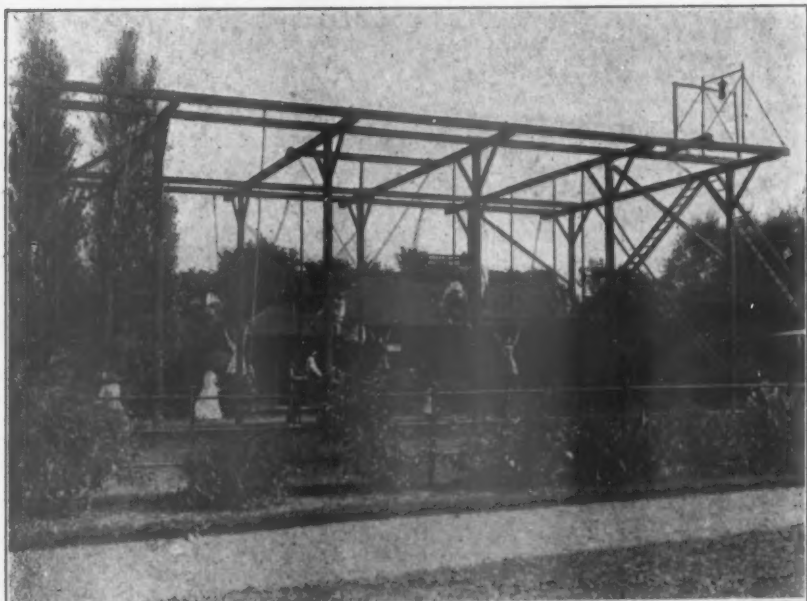
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PLAYGROUND, CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.



BENEFICENCE OF MRS. F. F. THOMPSON

The Playground

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Founder of Vacation Schools and Organizer and Chairman of Evening Play Centers' Committee, London, England

The following is taken from President Roosevelt's address before the National Congress of Mothers, in Washington, D. C., on March 10th. "As regards our public schools, I want to put in a special word in behalf of the right kind of playgrounds. No school is a good school if it has not a good playground. Remember that in the city especially it is an outrage to erect a school without erecting a

playground to go with that school. It is the gravest kind of wrong, not only to the children, but to the whole community, to turn out the boys and girls, especially in the congested part of the city, with no place to play in but the streets. There can be no more important reform than to provide adequate playgrounds, and a beginning should be made here in the District of Columbia."

LOS ANGELES PLAYGROUNDS—

LOS ANGELES PLAY- GROUNDS.

REPORT OF PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
FOR YEAR ENDING
NOVEMBER 30, 1907.

PLAYGROUND NO. 1.

DURING the year the children and young people have enjoyed to the utmost the games, sports, and gymnastic drill, and free play upon swings, see-saws, may-poles, and other apparatus, which this ground provides. The little folks have amused themselves in the sand-boxes, playing with the large blocks, while the adults have found pleasure in watching all that was going on. Count being taken once during the day of those present, 53,948 represents the attendance for one year. But this, of course, does not include all who come and go, or indicate actual number of visitors.

Little gardens were again cultivated to the number of forty-eight, and the children proudly carried home their products of vegetables and flowers. A system of daily marking for care and neatness was instituted, and in June prizes were awarded to those whose gardens showed the most faithful and diligent attention.

The two small showers accommodated 1,091 children with hot or cold baths.

The large open-air gymnasium, measuring 40x60 feet, with its roof to protect from sun or rain, was continually populous with boys. Here, besides the free play, Director McLellan conducted a class in regular gymnasium work.

In the various field sports baseball and football led, as usual, and one football and three baseball teams were organized. Suits were

secured for the first baseball team, and contributions for this purpose were received from Mr. C. C. Desmond, Dr. George L. Cole and Miss B. D. Stoddart. Seventy match games of baseball were played upon the home field, or were participated in by Playground No. 1 teams upon outside grounds. Five match games of football were played upon the home field.

The grounds are open on school days from two o'clock until dark. They are also kept open at the noon hour for the benefit of the 800 children of the Seventh Street School, where the facilities for play are poor. They are open all day on Saturday, holidays and during vacation time. On Sunday afternoons they serve as a park for the neighborhood, but ball games and gymnasium work are not carried on.

The Kindergarten of the nearby school has also spent many mornings in full possession of the playground.

This year interest in girls' games and athletics was greatly stimulated by the creation of the position of assistant. A woman was appointed to take charge of girls' work, dividing her time between Playgrounds No. 1 and No. 2. During the summer Miss L. M. Corella supervised the play. One of the chief features at both playgrounds was the organization of basketball teams. And an interesting outgrowth of this was instruction in sewing, the girls bringing to the grounds material for their suits, and being taught how to make them. Miss Edna Best is now in charge, and the work is continuing to develop. The care of the little children, the leadership of older girls in their games, ath-

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letics and gymnasium work, demand that each ground have a woman assistant.

The girls' ground is in receipt of basketball goals, the gift of Mrs. Harriet Taylor.

The position of janitor was created in October. One of the playground boys serves by the hour in this capacity, caring for grounds and club house.

The location of the superintendent's home upon this playground has proven of great value in making the place a real center of neighborhood activity. It is hoped that in time each playground may have a resident director.

The Water Department has kindly improved the system of water pipes which it originally furnished, replacing the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipe with $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, thus making it possible to keep the grounds well sprinkled.

The Board of Public Works, also, has aided in eliminating dust by oiling the adjacent streets and alleys.

CLUB HOUSE.

The building for indoor recreation was finished this year. It is an artistic bungalow, the main room of which is about 25x36 feet, with one end elevated as a stage. A large open fireplace, many windows and electric lights, together with chairs and tables for grown people and children, make this a pleasant place for meeting. A small club room, a dressing-room, a kitchen and a store-room complete the house.

Library work, in its various branches constitutes an important function of the Club House.

Other interesting and useful works are a course of stereopticon lectures, concerts and dramatic entertainments given on Friday even-

ings during the winter months. Miss Edna Best has this in charge. Volunteer service is rendered by professors from various schools and colleges, by musicians and leaders in dramatic schools, thus making this public course very interesting and instructive.

A gymnastic club for boys, led by Director McLellan, and the Young Stanford Club, led by Superintendent Raitt, hold weekly evening meetings. Miss Best is also forming an afternoon club for young girls, and an evening club for older working girls.

Groups from the neighborhood, or classes from the near-by public school, are welcome to use the house, and a number of pleasant social gatherings have already taken place.

PLAYGROUND No. 2.

On the afternoon of May 18th hundreds of people attended the opening of this ground, the children thronging around swings, maypoles and see-saws for their first play. Addresses were made by Mr. Baker P. Lee and Mayor Harper. An athletic program, consisting of pyramid work by the Polytechnic Gymnasium Club, exhibition tennis games by the students of the University of Southern California, and basketball contest by girls' teams from the public schools, was presented.

This playground has proven exceedingly popular, and since its opening there have been 32,160 visitors (count being taken once a day of those present). Led by Director Oliver F. Best, the boys have had a profitable summer in athletic work. Twenty-six match games of baseball, and thirteen match games of football were played here, or

LOS ANGELES PLAYGROUNDS—



1. Out-door Gymnasium, Los Angeles, Cal.
2. Utah Street School Vacation Playground, Los Angeles, Cal.
3. Girls' Basketball Contest, Inter-Playground Track Meet, Los Angeles, Cal.
4. Out-door Gymnasium Playground, No. 1, Los Angeles, Cal.; Largest in California.

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were participated in by Playground No. 2 teams upon other grounds. Training for the Annual Track-Meet was one of the leading activities. The girls under their leader have enjoyed basketball, tennis, croquet and the play apparatus. They were also instructed in the making of their suits.

The privilege of hot and cold showers has been eagerly sought, the baths having numbered 1,672.

Two small houses, containing the showers, dressing-rooms and store-rooms, were built last year.

Grounds and houses are kept in order by one of the playground boys, who is employed by the hour as janitor.

During the spring the chain-gang performed valuable service in filling and grading the playground.

The equipment of Playground No. 2 will be completed at an early date. A vine-covered fence will separate the playground proper from a border of parking which the Park Department will soon plant. Trees and vines will also be planted in the playground, and cement steps will lead up the terraces. Plans for a modern outdoor gymnasium, similar to the one at Playground No. 1, are being drawn by Superintendent Raitt. The building of a club house is also contemplated, similar in accommodations to the one at Playground No. 1, but twice its size. A beautiful site overlooking Echo Park Lake has been selected for the structure, and this center for indoor recreation will prove one of the most useful and attractive features of the playground. When all contemplated work shall have been finished, Playground No. 2 will be a beautiful, well-equipped place of recreation.

PLAYGROUND No. 3.

The second and last payments on the purchase of the land were made during the year, making the total paid \$8,943.90.

This site lies in the midst of factory and railroad industries, and was purchased with the idea of building thereon a substantial indoor recreation center, similar to those in many eastern cities. Plans for such a building are now under way by the architectural firm of Hunt, Eager & Burns. While both sexes and all ages will enjoy the privileges of this center, it is intended particularly to serve as an evening resort for the many hundreds of youths and young men who live in the boarding-houses and lodging-houses of the vicinity.

The chief feature will be a well-equipped gymnasium, measuring 44x80 feet, and two stories in height. A running track will form a gallery. The gymnasium may be used as an auditorium, as it will have at one end a stage 19x25 feet. This stage can be shut off and used as a club room. On one side of the stage will be a kitchen, on the other side, a library, each of which can be used as a dressing-room. In a mezzanine floor are a workshop and the physical director's room, the latter fitted with appliances for measuring gymnasium pupils. On the floor above is a neat little five-room apartment, the home of the director. Above this is a pleasant roof garden for public use. In the basement, which is but a few steps below street-level, there will be a system of hot and cold showers, another very important feature of the center. Besides the necessary store-room and furnace room, there will be two bowling alleys, a club room, and headquarters for the city visit-

LOS ANGELES PLAYGROUNDS—

ing nurse. The building will be of brick and plaster, and of Spanish architecture. It will cost probably \$30,000. A part of this sum, it is anticipated, will come from private sources. For the future a greater plan is contemplated, and when adopted, this building will form but one wing of a larger structure, which will surround a court on three sides. The two new sections will be devoted principally to a larger bath system, and to a modern plunge of ample proportions. When complete, the first Municipal Recreation Center of Los Angeles will take its place for usefulness and beauty with many centers in eastern cities.

PLAYGROUND No. 4.

On May 14th this ground was formally opened, the program consisting of an address by Mr. Parmentier, followed by contests at basketball and handball by teams from the public schools.

In preparing the ground, the chain-gang had the difficult task of grading and terracing.

The Water Department very kindly laid the piping, using the displaced $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipe taken from Playground No. 1.

The ground is simply equipped for basketball, handball and croquet. Preparations are being made, however, to add tennis, tetherball and other games.

Since its opening, the ground has been used by the neighborhood, and by the school opposite, without the oversight of a director. The position of director, however, has been created, and a man will at once take charge each afternoon after school, and all day Saturday, and will organize regular playground work.

PLAYGROUND No. 5.

Owing to the hilliness of the six

acres of public land set aside last year for this playground, another section was substituted. By Ordinance No. 15,220 (New Series), August 20th, the City Council set aside for park purposes the entire tract of city land, comprising some forty acres. The section that will constitute the playground consists to fifteen almost level acres, lying along the Pasadena electric railway. About two acres adjoining this will be used at once as a school site. The remainder of the land will constitute the park proper.

Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson, who has lately submitted a plan for beautifying our city, has advised concerning the laying out of the entire tract, and of the two acres of the Water Department. The mayor, several councilmen, and representatives from the various city departments interested, accompanied him to the site. The location commands magnificent views, and, presenting the ideal conjunction of school, park and playground, this tract will become one of the most attractive centers of the city.

It is anticipated that grading and the planting of trees will be commenced in the near future.

Residents of the neighborhood have become interested in the plan of having a playground and are raising a fund to aid in its equipment.

PLAYGROUND No. 6.

This piece of city land was given for playground use (subject to withdrawal) by Ordinance No. 14,519 (New Series), April 6, 1907. A playground is urgently needed in this part of the city, and it is hoped that in time this may be a center as well equipped as Playgrounds No. 1 or No. 2. Its size will allow for ample ball field, running-track,

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and all out-door games requiring space.

The chain-gang performed valuable service in clearing the ground of accumulated rubbish. As soon as the proper soil can be secured to mix with the sandy foundation of this ground, an excellent ball field will be ready for use, after which other improvements will follow.

VACATION PLAYGROUNDS.

Castelar Street School, New Macy Street School, Utah Street School.

The grounds of these three schools were equipped with play apparatus in the summer of 1906, and during vacation were conducted as Vacation Playgrounds. Apparatus was allowed to remain during the school year, when the School Department engaged its own teachers to take charge of the work.

From July 8th to September 14th, of this year, the Playground Department again conducted the grounds. Baseball, handball, basketball, croquet, quoits and field sports, together with play upon swings, chutes, see-saws, and ladders, were the principal attractions. The grounds were open six days a week from nine to twelve, from two to five-thirty, and from six till dark, the last period being for the benefit of the working boys and girls. A man led the work at each playground. Upon the creation of the position of a fourth vacation attendant, a woman was employed to take charge of the girls' work at the three grounds, dividing her time among them. Miss Grace Gilbert successfully filled the position, caring for the little children and leading the older ones in games and

athletics. Sewing was also taught to groups of little girls.

As mentioned before, teams of boys and girls trained for the Inter-Playground Track-Meet, which marked the close of vacation.

The three school baths were kept open, and 1,846 showers were given. The boys' baths were in charge of men attendants; the girls' baths in charge of the school and district nurses.

The apparatus, with the addition of a maypole on each ground, has again been left for the use of the schools, and the School Department, with its men in charge, will conduct the playgrounds during the school year.

Plans are in progress to equip at an early date a fourth ground, that of the Fourteenth Street School. The children, teachers and Child Study Circle of that school by a special entertainment raised the sum of \$100, which they have offered to the Playground Department towards an equipment fund. With the consent of the School Department, several hundred dollars will be added to this, and apparatus will be installed. As the ground is large and situated in a thickly populated district, it is believed that it will prove serviceable both as school playground, and, during summer, as a Vacation Playground.

This fiscal year's generous appropriation of \$40,000 is making it possible to place the work upon a larger scale, and it is believed that the foundation of a splendid system of playgrounds and recreation centers for the city of the future is now being laid.

Respectfully submitted,

BESSIE D. STODDART,
Secretary.

PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATIONS—

THE FORMATION OF PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATIONS.

AS there seems to be a very general tendency throughout the country at the present time toward the formation of playground associations, on the one hand, and a rather limited appreciation, as it seems to me, of their value on the other hand, I have felt that a brief consideration based on a considerable experience and thought on the subject, might be timely. I regard a playground association as a very important help to a city, whether playgrounds are already carried on by the city government or not. I feel also that it is of great value to the citizen by keeping him in touch with city affairs, and by stimulating in him the idea of social service and of general public usefulness. I believe that if we could get a similar organization of public-spirited citizens behind each of our city departments, that they could be maintained with much greater efficiency and without scandal or extravagance.

I have noticed that some cities seem to feel that the use of a playground association is only to get the city government to take up the work, but this, in my opinion, is only the beginning, and not by any means all of the work which the playground association should undertake. No city provides playgrounds for more than one-tenth or one-twentieth of its children at first, and to stand behind the movement until a playground is provided within walking distance of every child, is quite a different matter from getting the city to provide a playground for a few children in some congested portion of that city. Not only is it necessary that there

should be such an association to secure development, but also to see that the movement does not fall into the hands of politicians who might use it as a means of private aggrandizement; for a playground under political control and direction is rather worse than no playground at all.

The maintaining of playgrounds is now recognized as a municipal function in all progressive cities, consequently every city is or should be now maintaining playgrounds. In order to secure the best results every city has, or should have, a playground association.

I am often asked, "How should we go to work to organize?" In general it is necessary to arouse public interest to begin with, which can be done in either of two ways, separately, but can be done more satisfactorily by the use of the two together. The first way is by getting the papers of your city interested, and getting them to start a campaign for establishment of playgrounds. You can get literature and pictures for such a campaign from our office at 624 Madison Avenue, New York City. The second way is to get some prominent public speakers to come and give illustrated or other addresses upon the subject, and to try and get out all the people who are interested to hear the address. An address by Jacob Riis, Dr. Gulick or Joseph Lee, will be sure to bring out an audience, and to receive pretty full attention in the papers.

Having held the public meetings it would be wise to call together at some public place representatives of the leading women's clubs, of civic associations, of the Board of Education, of the Park Department, of the Board of Health, of

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the Police Department, of the Y. M. C. A., and the Common Council of the city, to discuss the situation and form an association. It should have a constitution, a president, secretary and treasurer, and hold monthly meetings.

Your next move in general should be to find the sites which are available, or possible locations for playgrounds. In this connection you should look over the public parks, and all of the grounds of the public schools, and find the ones which are suitable for playgrounds. It would be wise for you to make a plan, which will cover the entire city, so as to provide a playground within half a mile of every child, before you have gone far with your plans for playground development. Perhaps you can get the mayor to appoint a commission which can go thoroughly into such plans and make a careful study of all possible locations. Ofttimes there may be an abandoned cemetery in the city which might be made use of or there might be a marsh or a pond which could be filled in, or there may be some part of a public park which is not now being generally used. It will not take you very long from the use of Blasts Platt books, which may be found in any real estate office, to find every vacant square of two acres or so within the city limits, and you ought to get track of these at once so as to find what grounds there are that might be purchased. If you put it on the map showing all of these areas, all of the public schools of the city with their registration, you will know pretty well the desirability of each site for playground purposes.

Having selected the sites which you wish to recommend to the

Board of Education and the Park Board for playgrounds, committees should be appointed to wait upon these bodies and ask them to equip and maintain playgrounds on these sites. In most cases this will mean a request for a special appropriation from the City Council, and you should strengthen your cause at once by a full presentation of the matter to them.

It is very likely, however, that the city may not be disposed of or may not be able to take up the movement as a municipal undertaking the first year. There are very few cities that have done so. In nearly every case the work has been organized by private initiative and maintained by private initiative during the first year or years. In that case, it would be necessary for you to raise money in order to make a beginning. Many people have a dread of raising money. I have always had such a dread myself. This seemed to me, until I began, a positive prohibition of my undertaking such a work. However, I have been completely surprised at the ease with which the money has been raised, and I think it has been a decided help to us rather than a hindrance. You will get the city interested in the movement much more quickly if it has to be supported during the first year or two by private contributions. The papers will keep it constantly before the people, and those whom you appeal to for money to support it as a charitable enterprise will be much more ready to work with the city government to get them to take up the work as a public enterprise than they would if they had not contributed. The first thing to do is to get your finance committee together and get them to

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make up a list of names of those whom you think might be interested in such a movement; send them a letter of appeal with such literature on the subject as you may have on hand (a supply of which you can always get from us at the office), and ask them to contribute. It does not take very much money to start a playground.

Try and get a strong committee to work with churches and get all of the pastors of the city to preach a sermon or a part of a sermon on the moral dangers of the play of the streets and the need of providing play places for children. If you will send us the names of your clergymen, we shall be very glad to provide them with literature on which such a sermon might be based. Get the churches to give the contribution of Children's Day, or of some other predetermined date, toward starting the playgrounds. You should get the papers to give as full an account of these sermons as possible; that will keep the people interested and will put the work on a high moral plane.

You should get the co-operation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education at the earliest possible date and get the schools themselves to co-operate in securing the school playgrounds. The ways in which this can be done are numerous, and it seems to me equally valuable to the children and to the movement. You might have the musical department give a concert for the benefit of the playgrounds or have a voluntary contribution in the schools for the purpose of starting a playground. All of these methods are pursued in different cities, but perhaps the most helpful method is to get the school to give an entertainment for

the purpose of equipping its own playground. One of the schools of Washington was equipped in this way last year, and I understand that most of the playgrounds of Indianapolis have been provided in this way. The bringing the children together to work for such a common end, creates loyalty to the school and a spirit of social helpfulness, which is a valuable adjunct to moral education, and the children will prize more highly and be more careful of the equipment they provide themselves than they will if it is furnished for them by the city or an association.

HENRY S. CURTIS,
*Secretary, Playground Association
of America.*

MILWAUKEE PLAY- GROUNDS.

By MISS E. C. FOLKMAR.

THE last of December, 1907, the Common Council ordered the issue of \$20,000 in bonds to make first payment on land for small parks and playgrounds, such land to be bought on the long-time contract plan (ten years), not more than one-tenth of purchase price to be paid in first payment.

As we wished to make the \$20,000 make the first payment on a large amount of land, I called upon all parties making ten-year term bids on desirable plots and requested a modification of bids.

Up to the present the following tracts have been bought:

1. Beautiful parked piece of 13 acres on river front, densely settled neighborhood; \$45,000, of which \$500 was paid down, no further payments for ten years, and then the balance in ten equal annual

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payments; interest, 4 per cent. I ought to say here that one-half of this tract was donated, the \$45,000 being paid for the other half.

2. A plot of nearly 3 acres just across the street from a large school, \$31,000; \$1,000 first payment, balance in twenty annual payments; interest, 4 per cent.

3. A tract of 8 acres adjoining a school-house, \$38,500, paid as follows: 5 per cent. the first and second years, and the balance in nine equal annual payments.

4. A tract adjoining a large school, \$17,500; of this \$500 was paid down, then no payment for five years, and balance in ten equal annual payments; interest, 4 per cent.

5. A small piece on south side for enlargement of a school ground, \$2,000.

This makes a total of about 26 acres in four parcels for small parks and playgrounds thus far, and as yet we have used only about \$6,000 of the original \$20,000 issue for first payments.

And this is not all the good news. As a result of earnest efforts, Milwaukee now has a Municipal Park Board, with appropriation for three years. This Board will do work similar to that of the Municipal Park Board of Boston and Chicago.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

BY LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

At a special election in Alameda, Cal., on May 2d, the electors of the city voted for the purchase of three playgrounds. A Playground Commission will be appointed, and a supervisor will be employed by the year.

The residents of Upper Rensselaer, N. Y., have expressed their willingness to subscribe to a fund which will bring about the establishment of a park and playground for the children.

Prospects for a municipal playground in Battle Creek, Mich., seem very good now that the movement has the support of the Industrial Association.

Full arrangements have been made for the opening of the Vacation Schools of Cincinnati, O. The schools are to be open for six weeks beginning July 6th.

The State University of Missouri offers to start a "play school" in Hannibal, Mo., if that city will raise \$300 to pay the expense of the director and apparatus.

The Board of Education of Farmland, Ind., has purchased ample grounds in connection with the proposed high school for playground purposes.

The following is taken from the speech of Mr. Tutweiler delivered before the Principals' Club of Indianapolis, Ind.:

"The playground is a necessity and should be properly equipped and supervised. Some one objects that all this requires money. To be sure it does. Everything worth having costs money and also time and thought. But do not truant officers, truant schools, juvenile courts, reform schools and penitentiaries cost money, too? The same objector says, 'Yes, but we will have to have them too.' Maybe for a while, but as the playgrounds increase (it has actually been

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proved) youthful crime diminishes. The police and business men of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and other large cities where playgrounds are being operated all testify to this." —

In response to numerous requests from the public the Hudson County Park Commission of New Jersey has ordered and will install in a short time an elaborate playground equipment in the children's playground of West Side Park, Jersey City. —

Work will begin at once on a plot of ground, 600x300 feet, which is to be used as an athletic field and playground for the children of Kansas City, Mo. —

A committee of five was appointed as a result of an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Knoxville, Tenn., whose duties are to put the matter of public playgrounds before the public. —

Mr. O. S. Ham, of Lewiston, Me., has offered the use of a lot, 65 feet by 100, well shaded by trees, for use as a public playground. Provision is being made to have a competent supervisor in charge. —

On May 6th, the Park Board of Louisville, Ky., purchased twelve lots adjoining Shelby Park. This playground now has a frontage on two streets. —

The appeal of the boys to the mayor of West Lynn, Mass., was not in vain. The mayor has ordered the Park Department to begin at once to level the Little River recreation grounds and make them fit for out-of-door sports. —

The Glebe Brotherhood of Newburg, N. Y., with the assistance of the Mothers' Council, has secured the permission of the owner of the Forsyth lot to use it as a public playground for a year. —

The playground under the auspices of the Outdoor Art and Civic Association, of New Orleans, La., was opened with much ceremony on May 16th. —

John D. Rockefeller has turned over a big playground to the children of the Upper East Side of New York City. It extends from 64th to 67th Streets and fronts on Avenue A. Mr. Rockefeller has given instructions to divide the ground into three parts, as follows: One section for boys under 16, one section for grown-up lads, and one for the little tots. —

Brooklyn, N. Y., will this year have eleven vacation schools, twenty-two vacation playgrounds, three open-air playgrounds, seven playgrounds for the use of mothers and babies, and two evening roof playgrounds. —

The formal opening of the Union Settlement's new playground on May 12th drew a throng of 300 Providence, R. I., youngsters to the scene. —

The playground apparatus for the park system of Racine, Wis., is being put in place for use during the coming season. —

The ladies of the "Valentine Mothers' Club" gave a benefit performance at the Colonial Theatre, the proceeds of which make playgrounds for the children of Richmond, Va., an assured thing. —

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The Playground Association of America was represented at the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, held at Richmond, Va., May 6th to 13th.

The Playground Association of Scranton, Pa., plans to sell ten thousand buttons with a catchy motto on the face to stir up interest in the playground movement. The buttons will be sold at ten cents each.

A mass meeting was held at the Poli Theatre on May 10th for the benefit of the public playgrounds. The meeting was presided over by Mayor Dimmick. The principal speakers were Jacob Riis and Rev. Joseph Odell. The subscription taken up after the meeting amounted to \$3,395.

The offer of the Board of Water Commissioners of Trenton, N. J., to turn over the old city reservoir to the Public Playgrounds Commission for use as a playground was accepted by the commissioners on May 6th. Work will begin as soon as financial assistance is received.

Mayor Elias P. Mann, of Troy, N. Y., has notified the Woman's Improvement League that the playground will soon be opened and that the city will provide a caretaker.

At a meeting of the Common Council of Taunton, Mass., on March 26th, an order was introduced for the appointment of a committee to consider the purchase or lease by the city, of a tract of land near the center of the city for use as a public playground.

Under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. and the Public Playgrounds Commission, a plan has been completed that is intended to give every baseball club in Trenton, N. J., on which the players are 18 years old or under a chance to play in a regularly organized league.

Under the direction of City Clerk William Mahony the various public playgrounds in the city of Springfield, O., are being put in shape for the baseball season.

On the North Common a playground has been established for the children and apparatus placed thereon. The apparatus is very substantially built, and there was occasion that it should be. It was in constant use during the season, and its strength and endurance were tried to the utmost. The experience with playgrounds in both of the Commons warrants the view that they should be made in other parts of the city. The expense incident to the care of the apparatus is small, and there are many vacant spaces in the city that can be obtained by lease for a very moderate rental. (Extract from the Fifth Annual Report of the Park Commissioners of the City of Lowell, Mass.).

The newly-formed Playground Association of Scranton, Pa., has asked the City Council for an appropriation of \$5,000 to carry on the work during the coming summer. Mayor Dimmick has shown his interest in the movement by contributing \$100 to the Playground Association. The following is taken from School Controller Evans' endorsement of school yard playgrounds: "I am thoroughly in

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favor of the movement on foot in regard to using the school yards as public playgrounds. They are the property of the people and the people should have the use of them. They are not in use nearly three months in the summer, and that is a time when they are most needed for such purposes. I would favor equipping the grounds with horizontal bars and other appliances for the amusement of the children. I think that in many instances too much of the school yard has been reserved for lawn and shrubbery. We believe in beautifying the grounds so as to make them attractive, but not at the expense of the playgrounds." "Public Playgrounds" was the topic presented at the evening service of every church in Scranton on April 26th.

The Tree and Park Commission of Augusta, Ga., is also engaged upon the playground feature. A baseball diamond is now being equipped in May Park. It is also planned to put in playground apparatus for the use of the young folks.

The Senate amendment raising the amount appropriated for the playgrounds of Washington, D. C., from \$1,500 to \$15,000 was agreed to by the House, and the money made immediately available.

West Chester, Pa., is trying to organize a playground association. The following is taken from the *News*: "In every city where this great boon for the children and the public welfare has already been made a success it has been started and liberally aided by voluntary associations of private citizens. It is a movement that needs the impetus

of active and unceasing interest by the women, not less than the masculine organizations of the city, to start, sustain and widen it."

Members of the Civic Improvement Committee of the Board of Trade of Wilmington, Del., have made arrangements with a number of owners of vacant lots by which the lots can be used as playgrounds for the children of the neighborhood.

Toronto, Canada, is forming a playground association. A meeting was held in the office of J. J. Kelso at which representatives of many public societies were present.

Watervliet, N. Y., is to have a "Tag Day" for the benefit of the children's playground.

The Jermeyn Estate has offered a plot 100 by 150 feet for use as a public playground for the children of Scranton, Pa. It is located in Penn Avenue, in the very heart of the city.

Seattle, Wash., has eight playgrounds under construction, two of which will be opened this summer, namely, the one at Lincoln Park and the other on what is known as the Hill Tract.

The Davis Realty Company of Sioux City, Ia., has extended to the Park Commissioners the free use of a tract of land for playground and park purposes. It embraces an area of nearly forty acres.

The Winter Hill Improvement Association of Somerville, Mass., will extend its gardens during the

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coming season. Playgrounds for the children, baseball grounds for the older boys, and a croquet ground for all who desire it, are also being provided by the Association.

Plans for a playground in Corbin Park, Spokane, Wash., are being drafted by the Park Superintendent and the Engineer.

The city authorities of St. Louis, Mo., have taken over the playgrounds started by charitable women. In 1900 when the first playground was started, 325 children were benefited by it; in 1907 there were 17 playgrounds with an attendance of nearly 32,000 children. A Public Recreation Commission has been established.

The purchase of a playground on East 37th and 38th Streets was approved by the Sinking Fund Commissioners of Cleveland, O., on April 29th. It will be laid out as a small park and playground for little children. About \$7,000 is to be expended on the improvement.

The Women's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo, Mich., expects to have the Lovell Street playgrounds well equipped with apparatus for the use of the children this summer, with a competent physical director in charge.

The high school boys of Dolgeville, N. Y., are devoting some of their time after school hours to manual labor on the proposed playgrounds of that town, in the way of grading and otherwise getting them into shape.

In his annual message to the council, the mayor of McKeesport, Pa., recommends that from \$500 to \$1,000 be appropriated for the purpose of establishing playgrounds for the children during the summer months.

A generous portion of the John Henes Park, lying along the shore of the Menominee where bathing is the finest is to be set apart for the unrestricted use of the children of Marquette, Mich.

The Women's Club of New Bedford, Mass., has promised to continue to look after the playgrounds during the coming summer.

The Business Men's Association of Franklin, Mass., is educating public opinion to the need of public playgrounds for the youth of the city.

A May Carnival will be given by the Young Ladies' Playground Association for the benefit of the playgrounds of Columbus, O.

The Augusta, Me., *Journal* is making an active campaign for playgrounds for that city.

Dr. William C. Peters is agitating the playground question in Bangor, Me. He lectured before the Twentieth Century Club on the subject on May 22d.

Grounds near school buildings at South St. Paul, Minn., will be converted into public playgrounds. The children have been playing in the streets and the School Board will spend some money in improving lots near the schools.

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